

Church News.

ADDITIONAL.

MIAMI VALLEY ECHOES.

The BRETHREN EVANGELIST has been the bearer of glorious news, and all over our beloved brotherhood there is rejoicing over the good work that has been done. I have been much encouraged because it seems that with such present success, the future of the church is bright. How many have been the prayers offered unto Almighty God that his word might prosper in our hands, and that the "Gospel Alone" and the church which upholds it might make for themselves an enduring place among men. And how intense has been the anxiety at times among the earnest supporters and advocates of this faith as they beheld a crisis approaching, fearful lest it work harm to the cause they loved so much. How prone we are to forget that after all the work is the Lord's, and that "Though Paul might plant and Apolos water, the increase comes from God." There are rejoicing churches today, because of adding strength, and a more hopeful outlook, and there are rejoicing fathers and mothers because of answered prayer in behalf of children unsaved, which have heard and heeded the calls of the Master; and there are rejoicing pastors, because the fruits of their labors are now apparent, and what rejoicing there must be among the angels of God who are happier over one repenting sinner, than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance. Yea we all rejoice. Let us thank God and go on, remembering that the work is his, and that he will bless us in it just as we deserve. Yes, and even far above our deservings. In his own good time, the harvest will be ready for the reaping. I am not to be understood as meaning that we are to do nothing because success comes from him. We in the ministry or laity sow the Gospel seed, and it and its God will do the rest.

While you are reading and rejoicing, let me add to the good news already chronicled, and tell you that here in the Winchester church, twenty souls have been added to the band of believers. Brother J. M. Tombaugh came to us on February 4, and for five weeks we worked and preached and sang the good news to the people, with the above result, and now we rejoice because of the good done here. Brother T. presented the truth logically, clearly and beautifully as he always does, and all were edified, and convinced of the righteousness of the cause he represented. And now will come the no less important work of feeding,—instructing and encouraging the new converts in the Book and its God.

That was a very timely and proper bit of advice, editorially given to the Indiana Mission Board, last week, and I think the spirit of it might very earnestly be considered by us all, especially those whose churches have had large gatherings of souls during the winter. Unfortunately some people make very slow growth spiritually and I doubt if any of us grow as rapidly as we might, but those of slow growth, and those who are weak in the work and faith of the Christian because of a lack of acquaintance with it, need to be helped patiently over the rough places, and led still nearer to Jesus. The future church is in our hands now. What shall it be? We desire that it shall be a stronger and better church, and it is in our power to make it so. At times, the responsibility of this work almost staggers me, but with God's help we can do our best, and then leave it in his hand. I know of no auxiliary at present more helpful in this matter, than the King's Children, and I for one, mean to make the most of it. Responsibility develops power, or breaks down, and our young people with God's word in their hands, and its spirit in their hearts, are showing to the world a good front, and no collapse has been reported. God bless them; and may their work for him be more efficient than mine has been. I am anxious to see good work done, and am not so particular as to who does it, if only the Word is used, and the means it sets forth. I am ready to rejoice in the success which follows it. Your brother in Christ.

March 13.

MARTIN SHIVELY.

Gratis, Ohio.

FROM VERNALIS, CAL.

This is in what is here known as the West-side being west of the San Joaquin river; it is twelve miles south-east from Tracy, and is on a line of the southern Pacific railroad.

Our state evangelist, Elder P. S. Garman, has been with us since Tuesday evening, March 5, preaching for us every evening, and on Sundays, also after Sunday-school, which opens at 11 o'clock A. M. His meetings for this time closed last night, March 17. The meetings were fairly attended; and the interest, although it was not as good as we wished it to be, was fully as good as we could expect, when circumstances are taken into consideration. There were no additions to the body; although we feel quite certain that some felt it to be their duty to come. It might be said too, that we feel that some of the good seed, well sown, fell into good and earnest hearts, and that it will yet bring forth fruit to the glory of God and the salvation of some precious souls. We feel

quite certain that the most of God's children who attended felt that it was good to be here, and feel revived and encouraged to press onward and upward. All of our brother's discourses were plain, systematic, sympathetic, logical and eminently practical Gospel sermons, just such as were adapted to the time, place and people; and all of his labors amongst us were well directed and in harmony with the will of God and the needs of the people. We only wish that he could have remained longer, and that the people had been as faithful and diligent as our evangelist.

Usually our Sunday-school is in the Rising Sun school-house, about two miles south of Vernalis. Our superintendent is sister H. E. Beer, whose efforts seem to be appreciated. We use the Brethren literature and are pleased with it.

In conclusion, it does us good, makes us happy, to read of the glorious revivals in the east; and our desire, prayer and hope is that the Lord will continue to bless every well-directed effort, and that there may be more work done.

March 18.

J. W. BEER.

EDMOND, KAN.

As it has been quite a while since we sent our last report we thought it time to speak once again. Our church here at Otter Creek is still in a living condition in spite of hard times and spiritual opposition. We closed a week's meeting last Sunday evening which we think proved beneficial to the church if not, to those outside. The interest manifested was good and we hope that the seed sown will at some future time bring forth fruit. If the people would only read the Bible more I think there would be more additions to the church and perhaps there would not be so many back-sliders. Neither would false teachers have so many opportunities to pervert God's commands and bring in those damnable heresies which the apostle Peter tells us about.

Our work here has not been altogether in vain as we received one member by relation before our meeting and one reclaimed during the meeting. We made arrangements on last Sabbath to commence our Sabbath-school April 1st, and we will also use the Brethren literature. To-day I read Sister Grossnickle's report of the work she had done and we could not help but wish she might at some future time find her way to Kansas and bestow some labor on us. I think through God's help that some good might be accomplished by the S. S. C. E. Out here we have Bible reading and meet on Sunday evenings. Our next subject is Hypocrisy. This I believe is all for this time. I desire an interest in your prayers.

Your sister in Christ,

ROSA BOCKOVER.